



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Development

Community Economic Development

NEBRASKA

Cool Community, Cool Celebrations

The school in the Village of Ulysses, population 171, closed in the 1980's. Today the old high school gymnasium is available for residents to rent as a gathering place for reunions, receptions and parties.

The gym was built in the 1930's and is a product of the Works Project Administration (WPA). The WPA was part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, which put millions of Americans to work during the Great Depression.

With the rental income, the auditorium continues to be maintained as an asset to the community and can be rented out to village residents at an affordable rate. With many of the celebrations occurring in the summer, air conditioning was imperative in order to keep the facility fully utilized.



New air conditioner, a first for the auditorium, keeps the community celebrations cool in the summer.

The village was determined to raise enough money to purchase a heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system and was confident the community would be supportive of adding this important feature. The community did just that, by rallying together donations of \$9,000 were raised. The donations, leveraged with a village contribution of \$3,500 and a Rural Development grant of \$11,500, provided the funds needed for the HVAC system. The Village of Ulysses is very proud of its meeting place, with invested funds for a new roof, remodeled restrooms, windows, doors, flooring, wiring, lighting and now a HVAC system.

Obligation Amount: \$11,500

Date of Obligation: June 2, 2016

Congressional District: Fortenberry, 01; Senators Fischer and Sasse

Partners: Community Donations and Village Contributions

Demographics: Village of Ulysses, population 171

Impact: Provided air conditioning for the village's auditorium, allowing the facility to be comfortably utilized all year long.
